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THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street, Rm. G9
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What's New, Summer 2013

By: Mary Ferwerda

On September 21, the Milwaukee Justice Center Mobile Legal Clinic “rolled out” for its first day of service. The Mobile Legal Clinic was held from 10am - 2pm at the John C. Cudahy YMCA, on North Swan Rd..

Special visitors included County Supervisor Deanna Alexander, Clerk of Courts John Barrett, Marquette Law School Pro Bono Director Angela Schultz, MVLC Director Julie Darneider, YMCA Northside Center Executive Shanee Jenkins,

and a news crew from Fox 6 News.

We are grateful to have the law firm of Michael Best & Friedrich “on board” to staff the bus once per month, assisted by students from Marquette Law School. The clinic will continue at the YMCA site through the fall on the following Saturdays: 10/19, 11/16, and 12/12. Additional dates and locations will be announced in the spring. For info or to volunteer, contact me at mary.ferwerda@wicourts.gov or at 414-278-4271.



Atty. Mary Ferwerda
MJC Attorney Supervisor

Grant Award to Help MJC Reimagine Client Intake Process

By: Justin A. Metzger

A grant funded by the Wisconsin State Bar Association has allowed the Milwaukee Justice Center to begin the process of reimagining the client intake process.

The \$2,000 grant, awarded by the State Bar of Wisconsin, is the first step in taking the MJC's client data intake paperless, and allowing the organization, and its partners from the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic, to better manage data, ensure all data collections are complete, and provide a speedier reporting and feedback infrastructure. The whole project is estimated to cost around \$16,000.

Currently, the MJC is exploring the development of a custom web-based

database that will allow clients to enter their own information directly into the system from any set-up computer. There are several benefits of this system

First, by having clients enter their own information, MJC and MVLC volunteers and interns can spend more time helping clients directly, and almost entirely eliminate time spent entering and managing data. Second, supervisors can more easily access the data on client interactions (including case numbers and issues), allowing them to better assist both clients and volunteers. Finally, it will provide us the ability to report on who we're helping and how much more quickly and comprehensively than we can now.

And with MJC services expanding to other areas of Milwaukee via the MJC Mobile Legal Clinic, the ability to input and update client data on the go is paramount, and will be easy with this new system.

The MJC plans on rolling out this new project in the first part of calendar 2014.

MJC5K Gets Boost from Perfect Weather

By: Justin A. Metzger

Seventy degrees, sunny skies, a light, pleasant breeze off of Lake Michigan, and 191 participants all combined at Milwaukee's Veteran's Park on the evening of June 19 to support the Milwaukee Justice Center.

The Third Annual Milwaukee Justice Center MJC5k Run for Justice saw 169 racers, a new record turnout, supported by 22 race volunteers raise nearly \$8,500 on a Wednesday evening, nearly double what was raised in 2012. The five kilometer course started off on the Oak Leaf Trail along

the lakeshore, winding up the park's pathways around the lagoon, and back.

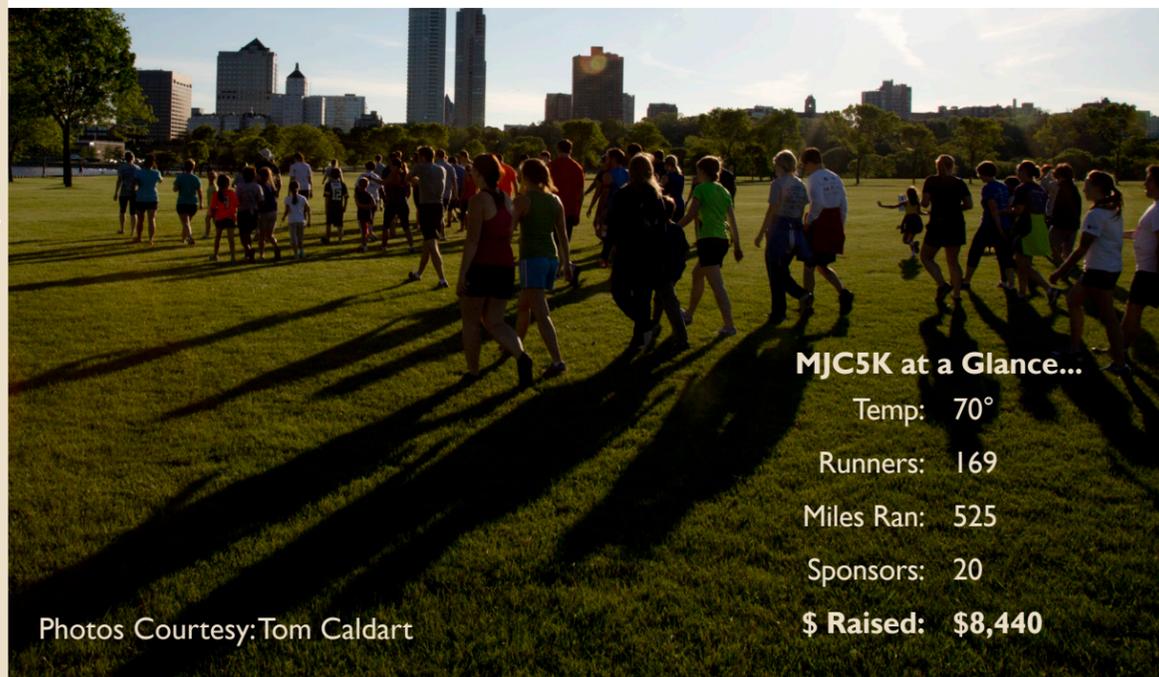
A new record completion time was set by overall (and men's) champion Carl Holborn (O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, DeJong & Laing SC), posting a 17:29 time, beating 2012's best mark by thirteen seconds. The run also saw it's first new women's champion since the event began in 2011, with a 22:14 time posted by Melissa Blair (also of O'Neil Cannon). Kadie Jelenchick (Foley & Lardner LLP) had been the women's champion in both 2011

and 2012. After the race was over, The Bero Group received the MJC5k Team Spirit Award.

The Mission River Band stuck around to provide live music throughout the event, and Big Bay Brewing Company pitched in refreshments for everyone.

We thank all of our record number of sponsors (shown at left).

Planning is already underway for the Fourth Annual Milwaukee Justice Center MJC5k Run for Justice. Circle your calendar on Wednesday, June 18, 2014. We'll see you there!



Photos Courtesy: Tom Caldart

MJC5K at a Glance...

- Temp: 70°
- Runners: 169
- Miles Ran: 525
- Sponsors: 20
- \$ Raised: \$8,440**

Volunteer Spotlight: Laura Now

By: Justin A. Metzger

Laura Now hails from Fond du Lac, and comes to the Milwaukee Justice Center by way of O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, DeJong & Laing. Laura got into law while working as a project assistant at Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago after graduating from UW-Madison, and decided to go to law school close to home. After graduating from Marquette Law School in 2010, Laura signed on with O'Neil Cannon, where she had previously clerked.

Why come to Milwaukee?

Even though I have moved back up to Fond du Lac since graduating from Marquette, I continue to work in Milwaukee because I love the work that I do, and I absolutely love the fabulous attorneys and people I work with on a day-to-day basis at O'Neil Cannon.

What brought you to the Milwaukee Justice Center?

As a law student, I participated in the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic, which is a similar brief legal advice and referral service. I wanted to continue to volunteer as an attorney, and with my firm being a founding member supporting the MJC, it sounded like a good fit.

What's been rewarding about your experience at the MJC?

The most rewarding aspect of MJC, in my opinion, is the appreciation and gratefulness expressed by the clients I've been able to help at the MJC. Seeing the relief that washes over their faces when I've been able to answer their question or provide a helpful resource is really awesome.

What's been the most challenging thing about volunteering at the MJC?

I would say the most challenging part of the MJC is the breadth of issues the clients bring in. It is certainly challenging when a client presents a problem that is outside your practice area. But, so often what MJC clients need is an explanation of the legal process or someone who cares to think critically with them about how to solve their problem. And of course its always refreshing to know that you've got the resources of the MJC as well as the knowledge of the other volunteers at your disposal.

Since you have also served as the MJC5K Race Committee chair, whats the most challenging run you've done?

The most rewarding aspect of MJC, in my opinion, is the appreciation and gratefulness expressed by the clients I've been able to help.
-Laura Now



Atty. Laura Now
O'Neil Cannon Hollman
DeJong & Laing

The most challenging race I've done was probably the first half marathon I did which at the time was called the Chicago Distance Classic. At that point in time I was really focused on and worried about the distance of the race. It wasn't until after that, and after I began participating in more and more organized races, that I realized its not about the distance or how fast you run (at least not for me), and that its really about just going out there and enjoying the experience.





Janelle Schmidt Joins MJC, Tackles Intake

The Milwaukee Justice Center gains another team member in Janelle Schmidt. Janelle joins us from the Milwaukee County Clerk of Court's office, and is the first person clients and volunteers will meet when they walk into the MJC.

Originally from Green Bay, and a *huge* Packers fan, Janelle earned her BA in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Since joining

By: Justin A. Metzger

the MJC team, she has really enjoyed her experience so far.

"My experience has been very humbling," Janelle says. "It has opened my eyes to the diversity that comes through the Milwaukee County Courts."

Janelle says she has learned a lot from the attorneys and really enjoys working with the students, and seeing their passion. ●



MJC Mobile Legal Clinic Hits the Road

By: Justin A. Metzger

The Milwaukee Justice Center took to the streets starting in late September, and is looking for volunteer attorneys who want to bring their talent to the community.

The Milwaukee Justice Center Mobile Legal Clinic, a project of Marquette University Law School and the Milwaukee Bar Association, was made possible by a donation

from Frank Daily and Julie Ebert in honor of Michael Gonring (Quarles & Brady).

Now, we are looking for lawyers to donate two hours of their time, one Saturday per month. The next outing happens October 19th. ●



Photo Courtesy: Tom Caldart

Family Law Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
8:30am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Thursday - Friday
8:30am - 12:00pm

Brief Legal Advice Clinic Hours:

Thursday - Friday
2:00pm - 4:00pm

To Make an Appointment:
(414) 278-2912
(Divorce Part 2 only)

MJC Executive Director:

Dawn R. Caldart, J.D.

MJC Legal Director:

Ayame D.C. Metzger, J.D.

Attorney Supervisor

Mary Ferwerda, J.D.

Clerical Specialist:

Janelle Schmidt



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Thank you to all of our
volunteers and supporters!